

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2547

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DEPT PASS SECRETARY

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR XA EG US

SUBJECT: MOHAMED RIAD ON AFRICAN VIEWS OF SECRETARY'S TRIP

1. AT AFGHAN DINNER LAST NIGHT, MINSTATE MOHAMED RIAD SOUGHT ME OUT. HE HAD JUST RETURNED FROM AFRO-ARAB CONFERENCE IN DAKAR. HE WANTED TO TELL ME THAT THERE HAD BEEN MUCH SKEPTISM ON THE PART OF AFRICAN REPS AT THE DAKAR CONFERENCE ABOUT THE SECRETARY'S CURRENT AFRICAN TRIP. AMONG THOSE WHO HAD BEEN MOST CRITICAL HAD BEEN THE TANZANIAN. THE THRUST OF THE AFRICAN ARGUMENT HAD BEEN THAT THE USG WAS NOT GENUINELY CONCERNED WITH AFRICA AND THAT THE SECRETARY'S TRIP WAS BELATEDLY DECIDED UPON IN THE WAKE OF THE ANGOLAN SETBACK.

2. RIAD SAID HE HAD SOUGHT TO COUNTER THIS IDEA. HE HAD EMPHASIZED TO HIS AFRICAN COLLEAGUES THAT THE SECRETARY'S TRIP SHOULD BE VIEWED IN A POSITIVE LIGHT. AS FAR AS GOE IS CONCERNED, IT REPRESENTS A GENUINE DESIRE ON THE PART OF THE USG TO DEVELOP CLOSER TIES WITH THE AFRICAN STATES. HE HAD STRONGLY URGED ALL TO GIVE THE USG A CHANCE TO SHOW THAT IT MEANS WHAT IT SAYS. RIAD THOUGHT HE HAD HAD SOME SUCCESS WITH

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HIS AFRICAN COLLEAGUES, BUT NOTED THAT KHADDAM HAD

HARDLY BEEN HELPFUL. KHADDAM HAD CONTINUED TO SPEAK
ABOUT USG "IMPERIALIST" ACTIVITIES IN AFRICA AND THE
MIDDLE EAST.

3. RIAD STATED THAT THESE EXCHANGES WITH AFRICANS
HAD TAKEN PLACE BEFORE HE HAD SEEN THE SECRETARY'S
LUSAKA SPEECH. HE HAD SUBSEQUENTLY READ
EXTENSIVE EXCERPTS FROM THE SPEECH. (WE HAVE SENT HIM A
COPY.) IN HIS JUDGMENT, IT WAS AN EXCELLENT STATEMENT
OF THE US POSITION ON AFRICA AND SHOULD HELP A GREAT DEAL
TO DEVELOP AMONG AFRICANS A BROADER UNDERSTANDING OF
OUR PURPOSE. EGYPT WILL USE IT IN ITS TALKS WITH
AFRICANS TO underscore THE GENUINENESS OF USG INTEREST
IN AFRICA.

4. RIAD NOTED HE EXPECTS TO GO TO TANZANIA ON MAY 31
ON AN OFFICIAL MISSION. HE WILL CONTINUE HIS EFFORTS
THERE AT THAT TIME.

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